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AI FOR AN EYE

BBMP to make use of surveillance cameras set up to detect crime to keep track of civic issues as well

PAGE 4

CASE FILE

Police are going after those filing false complaints; in past 5 years at least 6 cases filed, with 2 having undergone trial

PAGE 5

2 incidents of intoxicant-fuelled lethal attacks make experts warn that dangerous behavioural shifts caused due to addiction are often hard to predict or contain

ACTS OF VIOLENCE

'Alcoholic' son stabs father; men corner, extort friend for drinks

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Two harrowing incidents of violence unleashed by addiction-fueled outbursts on Monday have caused a sense of unease in the city. In the first case, a 61-year-old retired BSF officer was fatally stabbed by his intoxicated son in Balaji Nagar. And in the other, a 32-year-old man was assaulted and extorted by acquaintances after a night of drinking, turning a routine ride into a violent ordeal, in Yeshwanthpur.

Experts BM spoke to underscore the dangerous behavioural shifts that addiction can trigger, turning everyday disputes into life-threatening encounters. Experts warn that substance abuse not only impairs judgment but also escalates aggression, making interventions increasingly difficult.

"When a person consumes a substance that brings them happiness, they continue using it. If someone tries to restrain them, they resist and question authority," says Dr Padmakshi Lokesh, psychologist.

It was a family row that unfolded in Balaji Nagar on Monday afternoon that claimed the ex-BSF officer's life. His son not only stabbed him in a fit of rage, but also attacked his sister before neighbours intervened to save her.

According to police reports, Channabasavaiah B, a retired BSF officer and current ASO Toll Manager at NICE, had been at odds with his son over the latter's lifestyle. Amit, who had dropped out of school after Class 10, was allegedly addicted to alcohol and drugs and was often loitering outside. Whenever their father advised him to study or find work, he would respond with verbal abuse. He frequently demanded money, threatening violence if denied, leading their father to give in on several occasions.

On Monday, Channabasavaiah left for work

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> **"Addiction often comes with underlying mental disorders like mood swings or impulse control issues, making the addicts' responses more aggressive**
>
> —Dr Padmakshi Lokesh, psychologist

Digging up a grave (issue)

BWSSB puts ban on borewell digging this summer; permission only in exceptional cases

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With Bengaluru facing dire straits in terms of groundwater depletion, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has decided to impose a ban on digging borewells this summer. Last summer, the city faced a severe drinking water crisis, with groundwater levels depleting drastically. Taking advantage of the situation, private water tanker mafias exploited residents, leading to public outrage. BWSSB had implemented multiple water conservation measures, which will be continued this year as well.

A study conducted in 50 wards of the city revealed alarming groundwater depletion, prompting the decision to halt borewell digging until the end of summer. A BWSSB official said, "Permission will be granted only in exceptional cases, after thorough verification. As per the Karnataka Groundwater Development and Management (Regulation) Act, 2011, drilling borewells without proper authorisation will attract legal action. Last year, BWSSB mandated the installation of aerators in taps at hotels, malls, temples, government offices, and public places to reduce water

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Live jazz

Slide into the weekend with Tipsy Jazz at The Drawing Room, featuring live performances by iconic jazz artist Chan Callie. Savour handcrafted cocktails and artisanal bites while enjoying soulful melodies. **Where: The Drawing Room at Smoke House Deli; When: February 21, 7.00 pm**

02 Laugh out loud

Get ready for an evening of non-stop laughter as Vipul Goyal, known for his sharp wit and relatable humour, takes the stage. With his signature comic style, he's sure to leave the audience in splits! **Where: Nexus Shantiniketan Mall; When: February 22, 5.00 pm**

03 Cricket fever

Celebrate the cricket season at Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks with live match screenings, exciting games, and a vibrant atmosphere. Enjoy great food, drinks, and the thrill of the game with fellow fans! **Where: Hilton Bangalore Embassy Golflinks; When: February 19 – March 9**

04 Intellectual evening

Engage yourself in the remarkable book discussion. This event highlights the extraordinary life and contributions of Irawati Karve, offering deep insights into her legacy. **Where: Champaca bookstore; When: February 22, 5.30 pm**

05 Classical elegance

Witness a captivating solo Kathak recital, Prayas, by Nihira, a disciple of the renowned Smt Simran Godhwani, founder of Krshala Dance Theatre. **Where: Indian Institute of World Culture, Basavanagudi; When: February 22, 5.00 pm**

06 Beyond the stage

Witness a powerful performance of Ernest Hemingway's classic novella. Follow the epic journey of an old fisherman battling the sea and his greatest catch from the outstanding play directed by S Surendranath. **Where: Ranga Shankara; When: February 23, 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm**

Cura, Amma Cardiac Care open Cathlab

Cura Hospitals, Kammanahalli, has partnered with Amma Cardiac Care to establish a Catheterisation Laboratory (Cathlab), which was inaugurated on Tuesday by Avadootha Vinay Guruji from Swarna Petika Pura, Chikkamagaluru and B Kenchappa Gowda, President of Vokkaligara Sangha. Dr Ameen Shams, Medical Director of Cura Hospitals, stated that the collaboration aims to improve access to advanced cardiac treatments. "Our goal is to enhance cardiac care services and make them available to more people," he said. Dr Sandeep MC, Cardiologist at Amma Cardiac Care, said the new Cath Lab would help provide more precise and effective treatments. "This initiative strengthens our efforts to offer better cardiac care and treatment options," he added. **— BMB**

No more leaks? BU shifts to online question papers

Bangalore University will send BEd exam question papers online to curb leaks; colleges will receive encrypted copies 30 minutes before exams for secure printing

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BU will implement an online distribution system to prevent question paper leaks during transportation

Aimed at reducing incidents of paper leaks, Bangalore University (BU) is now preparing to send online question papers for student exams. The university's decision to implement this system stems from efforts to curb such issues, particularly in BEd colleges, where the number of students and institutions is smaller, making management easier. There are currently 30 BEd colleges under BU, with around 6,000 students who will soon take their semester exams.

A BU official stated, "The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has authorised four-year BEd programs across colleges, but most institutions continue to offer the two-year BEd course. Under this format, there are four semesters, and the university is responsible for printing and distributing question papers for each semester. In the past, instances of question paper leaks occurred during transportation to various colleges. To prevent this, BU has decided to implement an online distribution system. A similar system was previously introduced by the Pre-University Education Department for supplementary exams but was later discontinued."

Officials said that there have been allegations that students in BEd colleges engage in malpractice, with many institutions admitting out-of-state students who only appear for exams without attending classes. In some cases, the management of these colleges has been accused of facilitating question paper leaks. "Hence, we have decided to implement the online question paper distribution system to prevent examination malpractices. Since the number of students in BEd colleges is lesser, it will be easier to manage. Once the system proves successful, we will consider extending it to degree classes," said C Srinivas, Registrar (Evaluation) of Bangalore University.

> **"A 'soft-copy' of the question paper will be sent to login ID of college principal. To ensure security one-time password will be provided** – BU official

A BEd college principal noted that while online distribution is a positive step, regular password changes are essential to ensure security. "For years, question papers were physically transported from the university to colleges in bundles. Under the new system, a 'soft copy' of the question paper will be sent to the login ID of the college principal. To ensure security, a one-time password (OTP) will be provided, which the principal must enter to download and print the paper. The university will send the question paper to colleges half an hour before the exam begins, after which the printed copies will be distributed to students," explained a BU official.

Small industries seek relief from proposed power tariff hike

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Small and medium industries have opposed the electricity tariff revision proposed by Escoms as the majority of them are yet to recover the losses incurred during the pandemic.

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) requested the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) not to approve any increase in the fixed charges and the demand charges.

The Electricity Supply Companies (ESCOMS) have submitted a proposal to hike the power tariff by 67 paise. "Distribution losses should not be loaded on the HT (High Tension) consumers. Burdening the HT consumer at a higher voltage with aggregate technical commercial (ATC) losses is not tenable," said FKCCI president MG Balakrishna.

The FKCCI president said the tariff should progressively reflect the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency. "The Commission should make it compulsory to install meters for all consumers. The BESCOM cannot demand a security deposit from consumers if they are willing to receive electricity supply through a prepayment meter," he said.

The FKCCI has sought the ESCOMS to treat demand and supply to MSMEs separately to encourage better utilisation of resources (energy) at an affordable cost. "The interest on Security Deposit should be as per the bank rate as notified by the Reserve Bank of India. Further, the ESCOMS cannot by any stretch of imagination burden its consumers to pay pensions to its employees by increasing the tariff rate," the FKCCI president said.

> **The FKCCI president urged tariffs to reflect electricity supply costs with better efficiency and called for mandatory meters**

"We request the KERC to consider our appeal and reduce the Fixed as well as Unit charges considerably for sustainable growth in small-scale industries which are facing global competition and are all in a vulnerable condition," said KASSIA president MG Rajagopal.

Meanwhile, MG Prabhakar, a former member of the KERC Advisory Committee, has suggested electricity supply companies continue the special incentive scheme (SIS) for the benefit of small and medium industries. The SIS provides benefits for industrial and commercial consumers who consume electricity during the night hours.

Homemaker loses over Rs 31 lakh to con job

She was given fraud job related to online booking for travel website

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A homemaker from Bengaluru has fallen victim to a large-scale online job scam, losing Rs 31.5 lakh after being lured into a fraudulent work-from-home opportunity through Telegram.

The victim, identified as Jaya (name changed), filed a complaint stating that she had applied for an online job in December 2024 via Telegram. She was contacted by individuals using phone numbers and Telegram IDs, who claimed to offer her a job related to online bookings for a well-known travel website.

According to the FIR, Jaya was first asked to deposit Rs 10,000 to begin booking tasks. She was promised that after completing 30 bookings, she could withdraw her money along with a commission. Initially, she received two withdrawals, which convinced her to continue.

However, as the process advanced, she was repeatedly asked to deposit higher amounts under various pretexts, including promotional offers and negative balance issues.

As per the complaint, scammers posing as company representatives manipulated her into making multiple deposits, eventually amounting to Rs 31,57,378. The funds were transferred via UPI, RTGS, and IMPS to several bank accounts linked to different states including private banks in Punjab and Maharashtra.

The fraudsters operated under the names 'Sanju' and 'Pawan Singh', using fake Telegram accounts to communicate the complaint stated. They assured Jaya that her money would be returned once she completed additional bookings, leading to a delay in her lodging a complaint.

The police have registered an FIR and are investigating the case, tracing the bank accounts and phone numbers involved. The incident highlights the growing trend of online job frauds, where scammers exploit victims by making them believe they are engaged in legitimate work while gradually draining their savings.

Authorities have urged citizens to be cautious of online job offers that require upfront payments and to verify the authenticity of companies before engaging in financial transactions.

2 die in car crash at Ragihalli forest area

Two people, including a 23-year-old student, lost their lives, and two others sustained injuries in a car crash at Ragihalli forest area within the Bannerghatta police station limits on Monday night.

The deceased have been identified as Shahahuq (28), a businessman and the driver of the vehicle, and Arshu P Basheer, a first-year MBA student at T John College. The injured, Deva Narayana (23) and Sahil (23), both classmates of Arshu, were seated in the back. All four victims, originally from Kerala, were residing in a hostel in Bengaluru, police said.

According to the police, the group had consumed alcohol before setting out on a late-night drive. Shahahuq, who was reportedly driving recklessly, lost control while navigating a curve, causing the vehicle to crash into a tree.

Passersby alerted the police, who rushed to the scene, shifted the victims to the hospital, and later moved the wrecked car to the roadside. The police have registered a case of death due to negligence and rash driving against the driver. **BMB**

Chain-snatcher & 2-wheeler thief arrested

Police have arrested a man involved in a chain-snatching and multiple two-wheeler thefts, recovering a stolen gold chain and three stolen vehicles worth Rs 2.25 lakh.

The complainant, a resident of a PG in BTM Layout, reported on January 4, that an unidentified individual snatched a 13-gram gold chain from their neck. The Suddaguntepalya Police launched an investigation. Following leads, police detained a suspect at Chandralayout police station boundary on February 4, along with a stolen vehicle. During interrogation, the accused admitted to the crime and confessed to stealing two-wheelers from various parts of Bengaluru. Further probe led to the recovery of a 10-gram gold chain from an RT Nagar jewelry shop. **BMB**

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AI to assist BBMP zoom in on civic grievances

Surveillance cameras used to detect crime will be put into city duty as well

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BBMP's 6,000 cameras will capture images for AI to detect issues like garbage, potholes, or faulty lights

The civic agency is now planning to adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology to identify and resolve problems affecting residents. Every day, thousands of complaints regarding infrastructure-related issues are submitted to BBMP (Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike) through its helpline and other platforms. However, action is often taken only after complaints are lodged. In cases where grievances go unreported, resolution becomes uncertain. To tackle this challenge, BBMP plans to implement AI technology to detect and address problems without waiting for public complaints.

Utilising police cameras

BBMP intends to make use of the 6,000 surveillance cameras installed by the city police under the Nirbhaya scheme to monitor criminal activities. These cameras, positioned across Bengaluru's streets and junctions, will now also help detect civic issues as well.

BBMP vehicles equipped with cameras

"In addition, with police cameras, BBMP plans to equip around 250 cameras on vehicles used by its officials. These cameras will capture footage of public grievances, which will be analysed using AI technology to identify specific problems. BBMP has decided to allocate Rs 3 crore to hire a private agency for the implementation of AI technology. The agency will operate the system for three years, analysing captured images to detect civic issues and forwarding them to BBMP officials for resolution".

Suo moto case filing with AI

BBMP officials said that the 6,000 cameras will capture daily images, which the AI system will analyse to identify issues such as garbage disposal issues, potholes, or faulty streetlights. These images will be geo-tagged and sent to the respective BBMP officials, who will then register and address the grievances proactively.

Social media monitoring

Apart from camera surveillance, BBMP's AI technology will also track social media platforms for complaints related to civic issues in the city. Relevant grievances will be flagged and forwarded to officials for action.

While the initiative has received mixed reactions, some residents remain sceptical about its effectiveness. Sidde Gowda, a resident of Vijayanagar, remarked, "The idea sounds promising, but there are doubts about how well it will work. When BBMP struggles to address issues even after direct complaints, it remains to be seen how efficiently they will handle problems flagged by AI."

BBMP's AI will also monitor social media for civic complaints and forward relevant issues to officials for action

Aggression, unleashed: Addiction-fuelled violence rocks city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at 11.30 am. Amit left the home in the morning and returned by 3.15 pm. Their father arrived after 3:30 pm. However, Amit who was drunk had locked himself inside the bathroom. When his father asked him to open the door, an argument ensued. A frustrated Channabasavaiah threatened to call the police, but Amit snatched his phone, locked himself inside a room, and refused to let anyone in.

Sensing trouble, their father instructed his daughter Preethi to contact the police. As she was on the call, Amit stormed out, grabbed a curtain rod, and struck her on the hand and head. Her cries alerted their father, who intervened and took the rod away. Amit then attempted to assault their mother, prompting their father to push her outside for safety. In a sudden escalation, Amit forced his father into the kitchen, grabbed a knife, and stabbed him multiple times in the head, chest, leaving him fatally wounded.

When Preethi rushed to intervene, Amit attacked her, stabbing her right hand and locking the house from the inside to prevent anyone from escaping. Despite her pleas to take their father to the hospital, Amit remained aggressive, threatening to kill her as well. At this moment, their mother and neighbours forced their way in, preventing further harm.

Channabasavaiah was rushed to KC General Hospital but was declared dead on arrival. Byadarahalli police have registered a case under IPC sections 103(1) and 109(1) BNS, and Amit has been taken into custody.

These two back-to-back incidents serve as grim reminders of the increasing aggression associated with substance abuse. Experts warn that addiction often leads to impulsive behaviour, violent tendencies, and strained relationships.

Dr Lokesh added that addiction often has underlying mental disorders like mood disorders r impulse control issues, making their responses more aggressive. "It starts with curiosity and experimentation, but over time, dependency develops. They begin to believe they can't survive without it—whether it's drugs, alcohol, tobacco. These days we can even see the same behaviour in mobile phone addictions. These substances release happy hormones, giving a false sense of relief from problems, but the problems remain. At that stage, their thinking capacity, logical reasoning, and control diminish, leading to emotional outbursts and reckless behaviour when restrained," she explained.

In the other incident, Vasudev SA, an appliance repair worker, was assaulted and extorted in a late-night incident. After visiting his ailing aunt at a hospital on February 16, he returned home around midnight. While parking his scooter, his acquaintance Sachin requested a ride. Vasudev agreed but they were soon joined by Chinnu and another individual, who took control of the vehicle.

Near JP Park flyover, Vasudev fell off the scooter, after which the group took him to a hospital in Goraguntepalya under false pretenses and assaulted him. They later extorted Rs. 390 at a bar, forced him to buy alcohol, and made him transfer Rs. 1,200 via UPI. The ordeal ended near a hotel, where he was attacked with a knife. He later sought police action. Officials stated that the group, all friends, argued after drinking, leading to the altercation.

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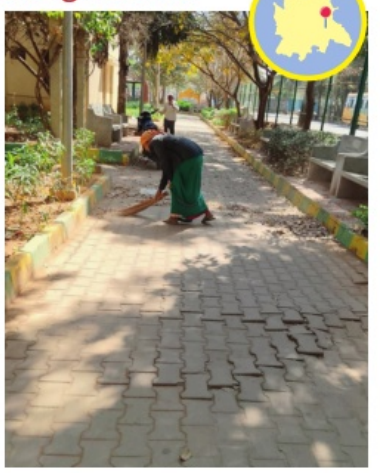
Maintenance failure

Planetarium

The Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium on Raj Bhavan Road suffers from poor maintenance.

Cleared leaves

Abbigere Park



Following the report in the columns, the dried leaves that covered the walking path and exercise area at Abbigere Park (Ward 12) have been cleared.

Road obstruction

Bannerghatta Road

A large cement block placed for no apparent reason in front of Gopalan Mall, Bannerghatta Road, is blocking a corner of the road towards Bannerghatta. Authorities seem indifferent to its removal.

HC: No new pension for those who retired before UGC pay revision

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The High Court determined that individuals who retired prior to the UGC scheme's pay revision, effective January 1, 2006, are not eligible for pension revision.

The court clarified that the Karnataka State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), whilst serving as an educational advisor to the state, lacks authority to stipulate service conditions, including pension matters for retired staff, without explicit provisions in the UGC scheme.

Justices Anu Sivaraman and Umesh M Adiga, forming a division bench, issued the ruling whilst accepting the state government's appeal against a single judge's verdict dated March 22, 2019.

Former professors and teachers from universities and colleges under higher education and collegiate education departments had petitioned the single judge, seeking pension adjustments in accordance with the 6th Central Pay Scale Commission and UGC pay scale recommendations.

Through an order dated January 1, 2006, the state government implemented revised pay scales and pensions as per the UGC pay scale. However, disputes emerged regarding pension benefits for those who retired before January 1, 2006, leading to KSHEC's involvement for evaluation.

Upon reviewing the cases, KSHEC suggested extending revised pension benefits to pre-January 1, 2006 retirees, ensuring parity with subsequent retirees. The state government, however, implemented these recommendations only partially, citing budgetary constraints. Subsequently, the petitioners sought relief from the single judge for uniform pension revisions. The resulting order on March 22, 2019, instructed the state government to distribute revised pensions with arrears in four equal instalments from June 1, 2019.

Don't compel defendant to use RTI to access case papers

The High Court has ruled that defendants should not be compelled to obtain case-related documents through RTI when they have filed applications under Section 91 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Justice M Nagaprasanna issued this ruling whilst granting a petition by Dr Shivamurthy Muruga Sharanaru, the pontiff of Murugha Mutt in Chitradurga, who faces charges of sexually assaulting two minor girls from the Mutt's hostels. The pontiff had contested the trial court's dismissal of his request for specific investigation-related documents. The prosecution had suggested that the petitioner could obtain these documents through an RTI application.

Karnataka State Higher Education Council, as an educational advisor to state, lacks authority to stipulate service conditions, says court

The court stated, "The objection is taken note of by the concerned Court and the application comes to be rejected. The rejection of which is on the face of it illegal as that is not the purport of Section 91 of the Cr.P.C. that an accused should be driven for securing documents under the Right to Information Act when an application is filed under Section 91 of Cr.P.C." The court granted the petition and instructed the prosecution to provide the requested documents to the petitioner at the appropriate trial stage.

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File false complaint, face the heat

Police start legal action against those filing false complaints with them, 6 cases registered in 5 years

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Bengaluru police have initiated legal action against individuals filing false complaints, with at least six cases registered in the last five years under the jurisdiction of the Police Commissioner. Of these, four cases progressed to the charge sheet stage, while two have undergone trial, resulting in punishments for the accused.

In two other instances, the police have submitted requests to the court seeking further action against those responsible for lodging false complaints.

In one such case registered at Sampigehalli Police station, a complaint of assault was filed but was later proven to be false during the investigation. A man, Shiva, had lodged a complaint in May 2020, alleging that an individual named Waseem had attacked him with a rod and attempted to cause grievous injury. However, after a thorough inquiry, police determined that the incident was an accident and that the allegations were fabricated.

As a result, the police submitted a 'B Report' in December 2020, classifying the case as false. Following this, a case was registered against Shiva for filing a false complaint, and a charge sheet was submitted to the court. On December 22, 2020, legal action was initiated under Section 182 of the CrPC for misleading the police and wasting law enforcement resources, punishment of 3 days was announced in case and fine of rupees 500 was initiated.

False case to claim insurance

Similarly, a vehicle theft case registered at Amruthahalli Police Station was found to be fabricated after an investigation revealed that the complainant had falsely reported the theft. The case, filed by an individual named Shankara Reddy in July 2021, claimed that his vehicle had been stolen from outside his house. However, upon reviewing CCTV footage and conducting an inquiry, the police discovered that Reddy had willingly given his vehicle to a friend for a trip out of town with his family.

It was determined that the false complaint was filed to fraudulently claim insurance. As a result, the police submitted a 'B Report' in March 2022, classifying the case as false. Legal proceedings followed, and the accused later confessed in court. On March 13, 2024, as per legal action, the court imposed a fine of ₹100 on the accused, with a default sentence of five days of simple imprisonment in case of non-payment under section 182 of the CrPC for misleading the police and filing a false case.

Arrest round-up: Robbers, burglars, cattle thieves nabbed

Police have arrested six persons involved in a gold robbery, and recovered 30 grams of stolen gold, an autorickshaw used in the crime, and three two-wheelers worth Rs 5 lakh.

According to a complaint filed at Suddaguntepalya Police Station on January 26, the victim had arrived at Satellite Bus Station on the night of January 25 and sought accommodation. An autorickshaw driver offered to find a room for ₹900, which the complainant transferred via Google Pay before boarding the vehicle. A woman was already seated in the auto.

Instead of taking him to a room, the driver dropped the complainant and the woman near Jayadeva Bus Stand on Bannerghatta Main Road at midnight. As they walked, three unidentified individuals suddenly attacked the complainant, snatching a 15-gram gold chain, a 19-gram gold bracelet, and two mobile phones.

Following investigations, police detained a suspect near Bommanahalli Junction on January 29, along with the autorickshaw. He confessed to the crime and revealed details about five accomplices. Two Arrested for Stealing Cows and Sheep;2 Cars and 1 Cash Seized total value 25 lakhs.

Cow, sheep thieves arrested

Two persons have been arrested for their involvement in stealing cows and sheep from a farm in Hosahalli under the Talaghattapura police limits. The accused, residents of the area, were apprehended following a series of investigations into a complaint filed by a local farmer on January 30. The farmer reported that four cows tied in his barn were stolen on the night of January 29.

After receiving information from informants, the police arrested one suspect near Chikkamagaluru Outer Police Station on February 9, and the second near Sarjapur Road Government School. On February 13, the police seized Rs 1 lakh in cash, which was paid by the buyers of the stolen cows and sheep. The vehicles used in the theft were also recovered on February 14. In total, Rs 5 lakh worth of goods, including the two cars and cash, were seized.

Serial burglar caught

The Begur police have arrested a man involved in multiple theft cases, recovering 179 grams of stolen gold jewelry and a two-wheeler, collectively valued at Rs 14.26 lakh. —BMB

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Vice-principal joins hands with driver, student to leak paper

Police scan digital footprint of those spreading law exam paper on social media groups to track them down

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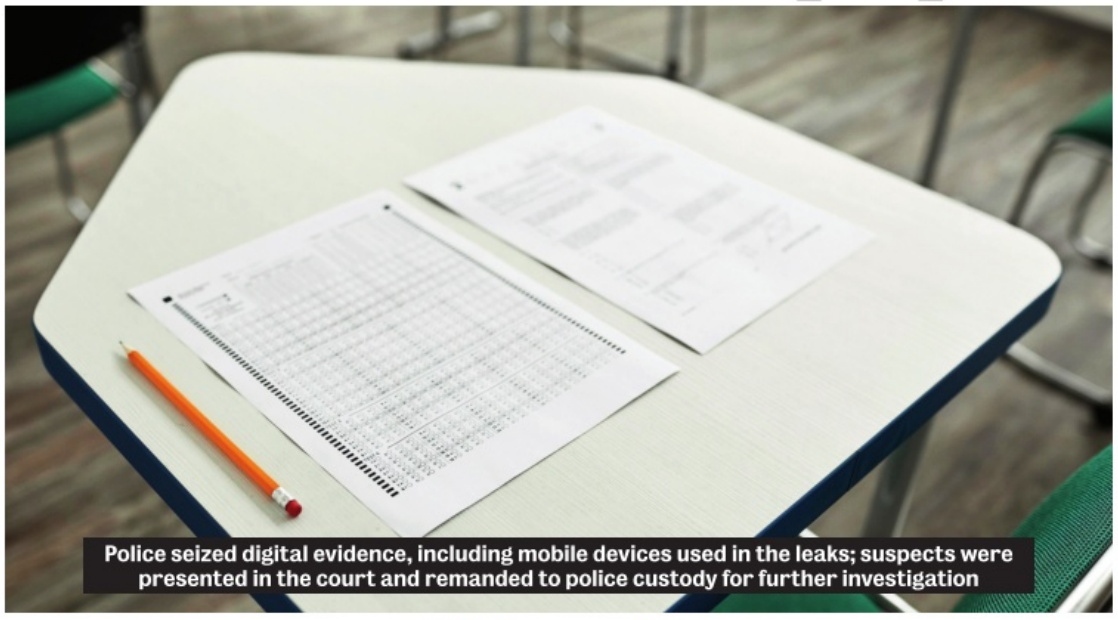

Police seized digital evidence, including mobile devices used in the leaks; suspects were presented in the court and remanded to police custody for further investigation

After an LLB contract law-1 examination paper leak was uncovered in the city, three persons, including a student from Basava Shri Law College in Kolar district and a college staff member, were arrested for allegedly distributing question papers through Telegram and WhatsApp groups in exchange for money.

Vishwanath KN, a member of Vigilance Squad 2, the chairman of Karnataka State Law University (KSLU), had filed a complaint with the police regarding the leak of the exam paper that was intended for law colleges affiliated with KSLU across Karnataka.

One of the accused, a student of Basava Shri Law College in Kolar and Jagadish, the personal driver of the vice principal, gained unauthorised access to the papers stored on the vice principal's mobile phone. He transferred the papers to his mobile before leaking them to candidates in exchange for money via WhatsApp.

Digital evidence leads to arrests

Another accused, Varun Kumar, a student from a law college in Banagarpet, Kolar, played a crucial role in accessing and distributing the papers. A day before the examination, he managed to acquire the papers, snapped pictures on his phone, and circulated them among students. His motive, as per police interrogation, was solely financial gains.

Cybercrime officers identified the three by tracing their digital footprint across various social media platforms, including Telegram groups like "KSLU Notes" and other student forums where the leaked papers were circulated.

According to the preliminary investigation, Vice Principal Nagaraj, who was one of the examiners and the custodian of the question paper that arrived at the college a day before the exam, broke the seal, took a photo of the paper, and shared key points with his student, Kumar. Nagaraj initially leaked the paper to Kumar, who was both his driver and a student. Kumar then spread the leak further by informing a friend and creating WhatsApp and Telegram groups named "KSLU" and "KSLU Notes" to distribute the question paper.

> **"Police revealed Vice Principal Nagaraj aim was to help students pass and boost the college rank, while some students were driven by financial gains**

On January 31, police arrested the first accused from his residence in Anekal, where digital evidence was recovered. During interrogation, he confessed to his role in the crime and provided leads on two more accomplices.

Financial incentives for students

Following this breakthrough, authorities apprehended the other two suspects on February 15 from their homes in Chintamani, Kolar. Digital evidence, including mobile devices used for the leaks, was seized. The suspects were produced before the court, where they were remanded in police custody for further investigation.

Senior police officials stated that Vice Principal Nagaraj's keen motive was to help students pass and improve their overall college rank, which led to certain actions within the institution. On the other hand, some students were primarily motivated by financial incentives. A few of them reportedly received small sums of money ranging from ₹250 to ₹1,000 as part of the arrangement. Bengaluru City Police Commissioner B Dayanand confirmed the arrests.

BDA demands withdrawal of illegally issued certificate

BDA asks Gram Panchayat to cancel unlawfully issued OCs, citing later has no jurisdiction

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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The Bettahalasur Gram Panchayat recently issued occupancy certificates to over 80 villas that are under construction to date. The OC was issued to a private builder on January 10, 2024, despite the fact that occupancy certificates cannot be issued to residential apartment complexes or villas without the Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) inspection or verification.

In spite of getting extensions from the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) twice, it is said that most of the villas are still under construction. "We have been waiting for the builder to hand over the villa to us, but in vain. We have complained to the RERA. We came to know that the builder got a fake OC from Bettahalasur Gram Panchayat that has no jurisdiction," said a homebuyer.

Based on a complaint lodged by one of the homebuyers, the BDA issued a notice to the Bettahalasur Gram Panchayat Development Officer on January 20, 2025, stating that the latter has no jurisdiction to issue a plan or an OC to buildings constructed by Total Environment Building Systems Private Limited. "You are directed to withdraw the OCs and send them to our office," the letter from BDA Engineering Officer-2 read.

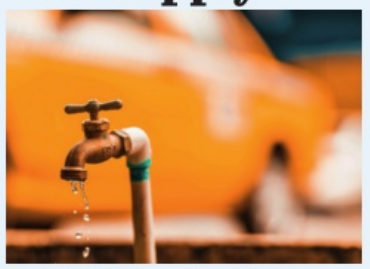
In response, Bettahalasur Gram Panchayat wrote a letter to the BDA Engineering Officer-2 on February 14, 2025, stating that the OC issued for the buildings has been withdrawn, as it has no jurisdiction to issue such an OC or building plan. "The panchayat meeting held on February 3 has approved the withdrawal of the OC," the letter read.

When contacted, Bettahalasur Gram Panchayat Development Officer Lokanath Srinivas said that the OC issue came to light when one of the homebuyers lodged a complaint against the issuance of fake OC to the builder. "We have no jurisdiction to issue the OC without BDA's approval. The OC was allegedly issued during my predecessor's tenure," the Panchayat Development Officer said.

Total Environment Building Systems Private Limited Customer Relations Manager Sravani said that she had not received any official communication from Bettahalasur Gram Panchayat on the cancellation of the OC. "We will revert on this issue," she said.

IN BRIEF

BWSSB work disrupts water supply



BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board) will carry out maintenance work on the Hoodi GLR flow line under the Cauvery 4th Stage, 2nd Phase (East-1) near Marathahalli and Jeevika Hospital, water supply will be disrupted for 12 hours on February 20 (between 9 am to 9 pm) at the following areas; Marathahalli, Doddanekkundi, Munnekollala, OMBR Layout, HRBR Layout, Seegehalli, Bhattarahalli, Medahalli, TC Palya, Vijinapura, Bellandur, Yemalur, Murugeshpalya, Konena Agrahara, CV Raman Nagar, Indiranagar, Thippasandra, Jeevan Bima Nagar, and surrounding localities, according to a press release. — BMB

Gold rush in Ball Badminton

Merry Go Round Badminton Club members unveiling T-shirt and trophy in Bengaluru on Tuesday

The three-day All-India Gold Medal Ball Badminton Tournament is set to begin on February 21 at RBI Grounds, JP Nagar in Bengaluru South. Bengaluru Rural MP Dr CN Manjunath will inaugurate the tournament. Sandalwood actress Prema and Bengaluru South MLA Krishnappa will attend the function. The tournament will be held from February 21 to 23.

Speaking with the media on Tuesday after unveiling the trophy and T-shirt, Merry Go Round Badminton Club president KB Arasappa said that ball badminton teams from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra will participate in the tournament. "For the first time, we have decided to give the 'Man of the Match award' to each team. The winning team will be felicitated with a gold medal," Arasappa said.

He said arrangements have been made to organise the ball badminton tournament at RBI Ground. "We are organising the tournament on the occasion of Merry Go Round Badminton Club's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Film actors are expected to grace the prize distribution function on February 23," he said. Around 20 men teams and 10 women teams are expected to participate in the ball badminton tournament.

— Y Maheswara Reddy

HEALTH TIP: Vaccination during pregnancy serves a dual purpose: safeguarding the mother against infections and transferring immunity to the baby

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IT'S A COLOURFUL LIFE

Research is starting to give us some answers about why life evolved so colourful

Picture a primordial Earth: a world of muted browns, greys and greens. Fast forward to today, and Earth teems with a kaleidoscope of colours.

From the stunning feathers of male peacocks to the vivid blooms of flowers, the story of how Earth became colourful is one of evolution. But how and why did this explosion of colour happen? Recent research is giving us clues into this part of Earth's narrative.

The journey towards a colourful world began with the evolution of vision, which initially developed to distinguish light from dark over 600 million years ago.

This ability probably arose in early organisms, like single-celled bacteria, enabling them to detect changes in their environment, such as the direction of sunlight. Over time, more sophisticated visual systems evolved and allowed organisms to perceive a broader spectrum of light.

For example, trichromatic vision – the ability to detect three distinct wavelengths such as red, green and blue – originated approximately 500-550 million years ago. This coincided with the "Cambrian explosion" (about 541 million years ago), which marked a rapid diversification of life, including the development of advanced sensory systems like vision.

The first animals with trichromatic vision were arthropods (a group of invertebrates that includes insects, spiders and crustaceans).

Trichromatic vision emerged 420-500 million years ago in vertebrates. This adaptation helped ancient animals to navigate their environments and detect predators or prey in ways that monochromatic vision could not.

Fossil evidence from trilobites, extinct marine arthropods that roamed the seas over 500 million years ago, suggests they had compound eyes. This means eyes with multiple small lenses, each capturing a fraction of the visual field, which combine to form a mosaic image. These eyes could detect multiple wavelengths, providing an evolutionary advantage in dim marine environments by enhancing the animal's visibility and motion detection.

The first burst of conspicuous colour came from plants. Early plants began producing colourful fruits and flowers, such as red, yellow, orange, blue and purple, to attract animals to help plants with seed dispersal and pollination.

Analytical models based on present-day plant variation suggest that colourful fruits, which appeared roughly 300-377 million years ago, co-evolved with seed-dispersing animals, such as early relatives of mammals. Flowers and their pollinators emerged later, around 140-250 million years ago. These innovations marked a turning point in Earth's palette.

The rise of flowering plants (angiosperms) in the Cretaceous period, over 100 million years ago, brought an explosion of colour, as flowers evolved brighter and more vibrant hues than seeds to attract pollinators like bees, butterflies and birds.

Conspicuous colouration in animals emerged less than 140 million years ago. Before, animals were mostly muted browns and greys. This timeline suggests that colour evolution was not inevitable, shaped instead by ecological and evolutionary factors, which could have led to different outcomes under different circumstances.

Vibrant colours often evolved as a kind of signalling to attract mates, deter predators, or establish dominance. Sexual selection probably played a strong role in driving these changes.

Dinosaurs provide some of the most striking evidence of early animal colouration. Fossilised melanosomes (pigment-containing cell structures called organelles) in feathered dinosaurs like Anchiornis reveal a vivid red plumage.

These feathers probably served display purposes, signalling fitness to mates or intimidating rivals. Similarly, the fossilised scales of a green and black ten million-year-old snake fossil suggest early use of colour for signalling or camouflage.

The evolution of colour is not always straightforward. Take poison frogs, for instance. These small amphibians display striking hues of blue, yellow, or red, not to attract mates but to warn predators of their toxicity, a phenomenon known as aposematism.

But some of their close relatives, equally toxic, blend into their environments. So why evolve bright warning signals when camouflage could also deter predators? The answer lies in the local predator community and the cost of producing colour. In regions where predators learn to associate vibrant colours with toxicity, conspicuous coloration is an effective survival strategy. In other contexts, blending in may work.

Unlike many mammals, which have dichromatic vision and see fewer colours, most primates including humans have trichromatic vision, enabling us to perceive a broader range of hues, including reds.

This probably helped our ancestors locate fruit in forests and likely played a role in social signalling. We see flowers differently from pollinators like bees, which can detect ultraviolet patterns invisible to us, highlighting how colour is tailored to a species' ecological needs.

A world still changing

Earth's palette isn't static. Climate change, habitat loss, and human influence are altering the selective pressures on colouration, potentially reshaping the visual landscape of the future. For example, some fish species exposed to polluted waters are losing their vibrant colours, as toxins disrupt pigment production or visual communication.

As we look to the past, the story of Earth's colours is one of gradual transformation punctuated by bursts of innovation. From the ancient seas where trilobites first saw the world in colour to the dazzling displays of modern birds and flowers, life on Earth has been painting its canvas for over half a billion years.

What will the next chapter of this vibrant story hold?

By Jonathan Goldenberg, Lund University, The Conversation

All you need to know about...

Air pollution at home

Can't breathe easy

A new study reveals that people may be exposed to unhealthy levels of airborne pollutants inside their homes, even if the outdoor air quality is good.

Higher PM at home

Researchers at the University of Birmingham used low-cost sensors and innovative techniques over a two-week period to compare particulate matter (PM) in three homes. They discovered that pollution levels in each house were higher and more variable than outdoor levels. The researchers found significant differences in PM levels between the three houses, with one home exceeding the World Health Organisation (WHO) 24-hour PM2.5 limit on nine days. This highlights the importance of monitoring indoor air quality at a household-specific level. The study was published in Scientific Reports.

Factors

Co-author and Clean Air Fellow Catrin Rathbone commented: "Our study shows the need to monitor indoor air pollution, as people can have unhealthy air at home even if outdoor air is good. PM levels varied significantly between homes, indicating that monitoring just one location isn't enough."

The team note that factors such as household location, ventilation, and occupancy patterns influenced particle levels – demonstrating the complexity of indoor air quality.

Researchers identified five different factors contributing to PM in indoor spaces – two relating to indoor activities, such as increased movement by residents and three linked to external factors such as a nearby restaurant's kitchen vent. They found that larger particles (PM10) tended to settle faster compared to smaller particles (PM1, PM2.5).

—ANI

Just 1,273 of 2,835 applications in 2024 got the nod

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

consumption. A total of 6,03,086 aerators were installed, including 1,03,000 in government offices and public spaces. The board recovered installation costs from users. This initiative will continue this summer."

Limited approvals

BWSSB officials said that a borewell committee is reviewing applications for borewell permissions. In 2024, 2,835 applications were submitted, of which only 1,273 were approved. Last summer, from February to May, 1,634 applications were received, with 600 granted permission.

However, this year, from January to February 15, 592 applications were received, but only 29 have been approved. To protect groundwater, BWSSB has restricted borewell approvals, allowing only emergency cases after verification by the Karnataka Groundwater Authority. Any unauthorised borewell digging will invite strict legal action.

Self-restrictions

V Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB chairman, reiterated that the board is committed to groundwater conservation and will take stringent measures to regulate borewell digging, ensuring water security for the city. "To prioritise groundwater conservation, BWSSB has decided to limit unnecessary borewell digging and utilise water from its existing 11,490 water sources and around 3,000 borewells.

Last year, 313 new borewells were drilled, but this time, BWSSB is relying more on Cauvery Phase 5 water supply, which has provided 775 MLD (million liters per day), of which only 200 MLD is currently in use, leaving 575 MLD available to meet summer demand," added another BWSSB official.

Steep fine for misuse of water

BWSSB has issued a strict order imposing a ₹5,000 fine on those misusing drinking water for non-essential purposes. An official said, "With Bengaluru's population exceeding 1.4 crore, rising temperatures and low rainfall have led to a drastic drop in groundwater levels.

To ensure adequate drinking water supply, BWSSB has banned its use for car washing, gardening, construction, fountains, road cleaning, and even general use in malls and cinemas—except for drinking purposes.

Violators will be penalised under Sections 33 and 34 of the BWSSB Act, 1964. Repeat offenders will face an additional daily fine of ₹500."

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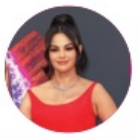

Selena on her relationship

Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco recently opened up about their relationship, how they met, and their engagement. Gomez spoke about the importance of how Blanco, 36, treated her

Real companion

Sonali Bendre says reading has helped her get through good and bad times of life

For Sonali Bendre, books have always been her companion - in good and bad times. The actress, who is an avid reader and also has a book club, shares how reading has helped her sail through one of the toughest phases of her life, her battle with cancer, and how it continues to be her comfort zone.

'My book club became a huge support system'

Talking about the phase when she was focussing on healing, she shares, "My book club kept me grounded. The community there became a huge support system. It was such a comforting experience, because throughout that phase, we were selecting books, having discussions and sharing our thoughts. There were also times when I chose a book, and the community would suggest that maybe it wasn't the right time for that particular read. They would recommend books that could assist me in my healing process."

'It's harder to stay disciplined with reading now'

Last seen in the web series The Broken News, Sonali feels that in today's fast-paced world, it's becoming increasingly difficult to nurture the habit of reading. Elaborating on the same the actress shared at Sonali Kulkarni's book launch recently, "Reading is incredibly important, but there are so many distractions now as people consume content in different ways. It's harder to stay disciplined with reading. However, for me, it is my comfort zone. I can switch off and go into a different world. Reading is something that has always given me a lot of comfort. I am not the kind of person who has too many friends, so books have always been my best friends."

'A good translation deserves recognition, as it's a challenge to do it well'

Sonali, who is a Maharashtrian, expresses her desire to explore Marathi literature. She adds, "Through the book club, we recently finished reading translations of 10 Indian classic stories. These were in various languages, and we worked on translating them. India has such a rich literary tradition. A good translation deserves recognition, as it's a challenge to do it well. Often, translations lose the essence of the original work, but when that essence is preserved, and even enhanced, then it becomes a book that truly deserves to be celebrated."

—Onkar Kulkarni, TNN

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Value-based movie

Oscar Krishna has embarked on making a value-based movie – Doddmane Sose. National award winner Dr Girish Kasaravalli sounded the clapboard for the movie at Sri Viswa Vidyaganapathi Temple recently.

Kasaravalli has said that the majority of Kannada movies belong to horror or crime genres. "I am happy to know that this movie is for family audiences. I appreciate the director for this movie and I wish good luck to the cast and crew," Dr Kasaravalli said.

Thanking Kasaravalli for sounding the clapboard, Oscar Krishna said that Doddmane Sose is his seventh movie as a director. "I am a hard-core fan of Dr Rajkumar. Many people may think that this movie - Doddmane Sose - is related to Dr Rajkumar's family, but I want to make it clear that this movie has no connection with it. It is the story of a village leader's daughter-in-law. The movie highlights how the daughter-in-law solves her problems," the director said.

Need good movies

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao spoke about the need of bankrolling good quality movies while at the audio launch of the movie Ludo at Renukamba Preview Theater, Malleswaram. The movie, which is expected to be dubbed into Tamil, Telugu and Hindi, is directed by D Yogaraj.

The minister said more newcomers must enter Sandalwood to showcase their talent. "Newcomers will have the courage to innovate and experiment. All cannot become actors but only a few can taste the success in Sandalwood," the minister said. Ludo is bankrolled by Mahendran M under the Neelakanta Productions House. D Yogaraj, wrote script, screenplay, dialogues, lyrics, and cinematography, apart from handling the megaphone for this movie.

Ludo is Yogaraj's fourth film as a director. "We are trying to release the movie in April. It is a hyperlink story. It is the story of four people with different concepts and thoughts. All the four characters will meet in the climax. The movie throws some light on social issues," said the director.

Love of Parineeti's life

Actress Parineeti Chopra recently made a surprising revelation about who truly holds a special place in her life.

While her husband and politician Raghav Chadha is undoubtedly important to her, it turns out there's someone else who's captured her heart in a different way. On Tuesday, the 'Kesari' actress reposted a hilarious reel on her Instagram stories showcasing a little girl's over-the-top excitement when her mother brings her pizza.

The video, which is accompanied by the caption "When pizza is life," perfectly captures the pure joy and enthusiasm of the child as she sees her favorite meal. Parineeti reposted the clip with the playful caption, "Exclusive footage of me," humorously relating to the girl's excitement. The 'Ishaqzaade' actress, who is currently in Delhi, also posted glimpses from her stay in the national capital.

A few days ago, Parineeti, an avid social media user, had shared a sneak peek into her pre-shoot routine. The actress posted a selfie from her makeup room as she prepared for an upcoming shoot. In the selfie, Parineeti was seen sporting a comfy t-shirt while capturing the moment in her mirror. Along with the image, she wrote, "Chalo Shoot." —IANS

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I, Priyanka L W/O, Kavirajacholan R/o New No 20-7 Purushothaman Road Ulsoor Bengaluru -560008 have changed my name to Priyanka Kavirajacholan for all purposes.

I Saparia Ashishkumar Ravajibhai S/O, Ravjibhai R/o No 08 Vishwakarma 12th Cross Annapoorneshwarinagara S G Kavalu Viswaneedam Post Bengaluru - 560091 have changed my name to Sapariya Ashishkumar.

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I, Rukkumani Shakthi Srinivasan R/a No. Sattva Gold Summit A 603, Gubbi Cross, Hennur Road, Bengaluru-560077. Have changed to RUKMANI JAGANNATHAN. Afft Dt: 17.02.2025. Sworn Before Notary: Devaraju. E.

I Monika Daga wife of Rajesh Kumar Daga residing at D302, Royal Legend Apartment 60 Kodichikkanhalli Bommanhalli Bangalore 560068 have changed my name from MONIKA GANDHI to MONIKA DAGA for all future purpose

I Shiv Prasad K G S/O, Govindankutty Menon R/o 4012, Maple 4 Sobha Forest View, BSK 6th Stage Extn, Vajarahalli Road, Bengaluru; have changed my name to Sivaprasad K G.

I, ABHIJEETH Resident At No. 2-491, Jagath Road, Near Malerao Male Hospital, Sidram Galli, Ps- Brahmapur, Afzalpur, Karnataka Pin 585101 have changed my name to ABHIJEETH SOMASHEKARAYYA HIREMATH vide affidavit dated 10.01.2025 sworn before D. Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru.

I, MASLEKAR AKSHAY AJAY RAO S/O Ajay Vithalrao Maslekar Aged About 24 Years R/At No.57,6th Cross, Singayyanapalya, Mahadevapura, B'luru-560048 have changed my name to AKSHAY AJAY MASLEKAR Vide Affidavit Dtd:18/02/2025 Sworn Before Notary Uday Kumar K, Bengaluru.

I, Mohamed Jubair, Residing at No 11/5, Dr. Omer Shariff Road, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004, Have changed my daughter name MAHYA to MAHYA MOHAMED JUBAIR, vide affidavit dated 17/02/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, SALEEM.S, R/a.#69, 2nd Flr, Raghavendra Colony, Lalbagh, Siddapura, jaynagar 1st Blk, Bangalore-11. I, have Changed my name to MAHAMED SALEEM, Vide affidavit dated 09/12/2024 sworn before Notary Meer Hussain Bangalore

I Avinash Kadam S/O, Govind Sakharam Kadam R/o 682, 23rd Cross, 14th Main Road, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore - 560078 have changed my name to Avinash Govind Kadam.

I, SHREYA ASHIS KUMAR SINHA, Wife of Shri Rohan Sinha and D/o Shri Ashis Kumar, aged 28 years, address: A1/112 Forest Society, P.O. Katol Road S.O., Nagpur 440013, have changed my name to SHREYA SINHA vide affidavit dated 27-01-2025 (No.1248) before Shri Yogendra Jambhulkar, Notary, Nagpur.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: I, GIRISH. V S/o Venkatappa.R, No. 660, 4th A Main, 1st stage, Yelahanka New town, bangalore -560064 have lost our original Sale Deed of the measuring site:34×40 (1360 Sqft) property situated at Residenciel Site no.01, Khata No.84/01, sy no.58, situated at Kurubarakunte village, Devanahalli taluk, Bangalore Rural District, sale deed bearing No.05574/2013-14, Dated:21-10-2013, Registered at: Devanahalli. regarding this we have given police complaint. If anybody found please contact ph-9741777887 or handover to the nearest police station.

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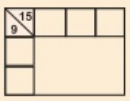
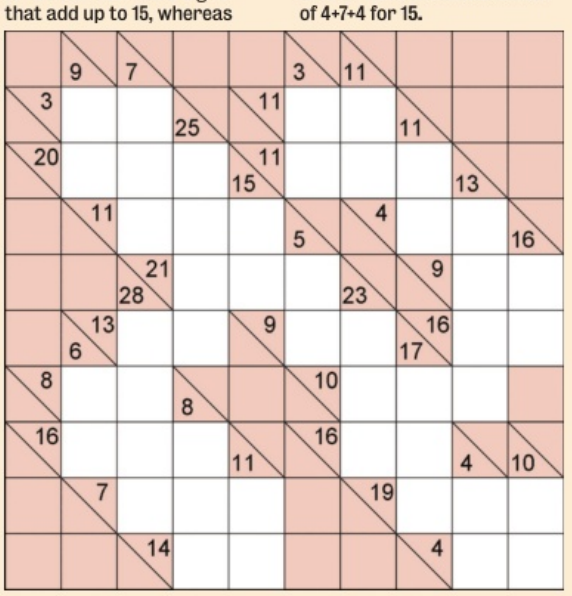
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

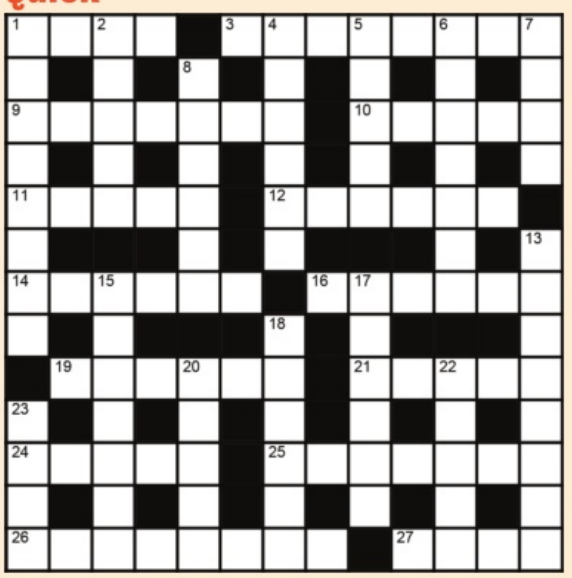


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Central parts of wheels (4)
3 Competitions (8)
9 Round iron plate set over fire for baking, etc. (7)
10 Foreign (5)
11 Musical instrument (5)
12 Kabul native (6)
14 In the ___: likely to happen soon (6)
16 High-pitched (6)
19 Mowing tool (6)
21 Storehouse (5)
24 Horse attendant (5)
25 American essayist (7)
26 An optical aid (8)
27 Dutch cheese (4)

DOWN

1 Intellectual (8)
2 Legendary West Indies batsman ___ Lara (5)
4 ____ show : a solo effort ? (3-3)
5 Plucked string sound (5)
6 Hunter in the Indian jungles (7)
7 Dispatched or transmitted (4)
8 Abut or border on (6)
13 Noble metal or a type of blonde or a type of a jubilee? (8)
15 Manufacturing plant (7)
17 Avoids committing oneself, in a way? (6)
18 Adorns with precious stones (6)
20 Chennai lingo (5)
22 Took a stance (5)
23 ___ on : incites (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS G

AXCJHAS LX OTVJ UAJWAVUL W SXXK WL CX OWZU LWVNHRH-VUL RXN HC.

Linemaro

Your brain could give Einstein a complex

Mindchow

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are

Joke of the day

Teacher: Sam, do you say your prayers before eating?
Sam: I don't have to, ma'am. My mom is a good cook

Loop

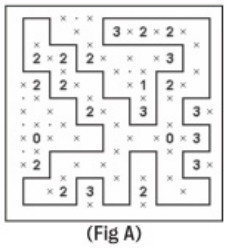
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

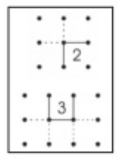
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

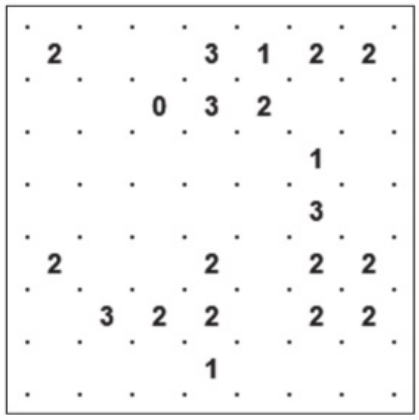
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



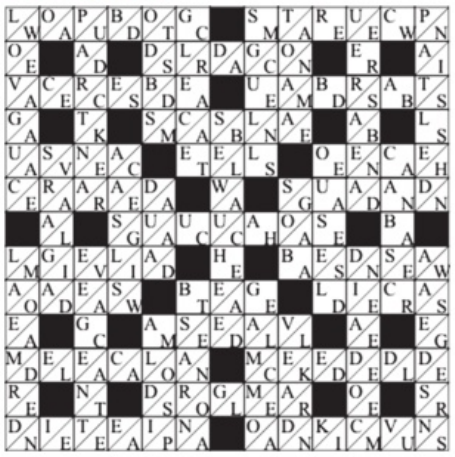
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



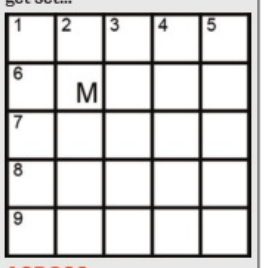
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

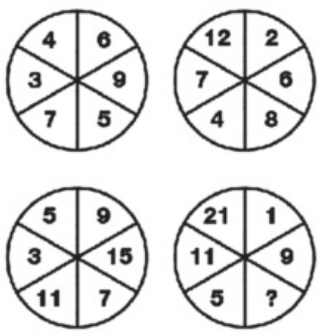
1 Arr Da; 6 I a mum;
7 Din it; 8 A nine;
9 Sec so

DOWN

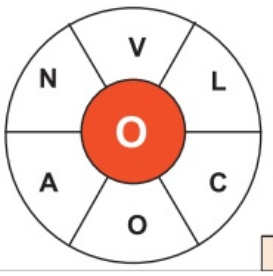
1 Incur; 2 Naomi;
3 Sat ad; 4 Maine;
5 Dries

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

08 Average; **09** Good; **11** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

			7		4			
	6			3			2	
4		2				3		9
	3	8	9		5	7	4	
6								8
	7	5	8		1	9	3	
9		3				4		7
	2			8			9	
			4		3			

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 26

5 5 7 9

Medium = 8

2 4 8 8

Hard = 45

2 6 9 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

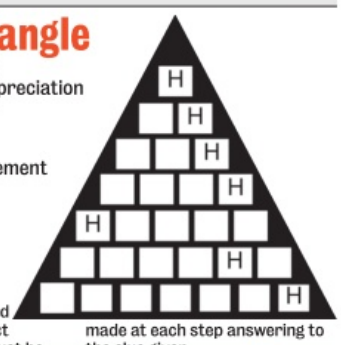
Differences: 1. Cup is missing. 2. Faucet is moved. 3. Light is smaller. 4. Man is thinner. 5. Label is missing. 6. Tie is longer.

Riddler

No assembly required, and I feature my own bowl
With a stick I'm equipped, giving manual control
My handheld companions have their own jobs to perform
Each one of them with its own function and distinct form
In addition to serving my usual functions I've been known to play a part in musical junctions
When the day has reached its end, and waking hours are through
I form a loving posture with the closeness of two
What am I?

Alpha triangle

1 Atomic number 1
2 Expression of appreciation
3 Volcanic residue
4 Whip
5 Tows
6 Expresses amusement
7 Type of stew

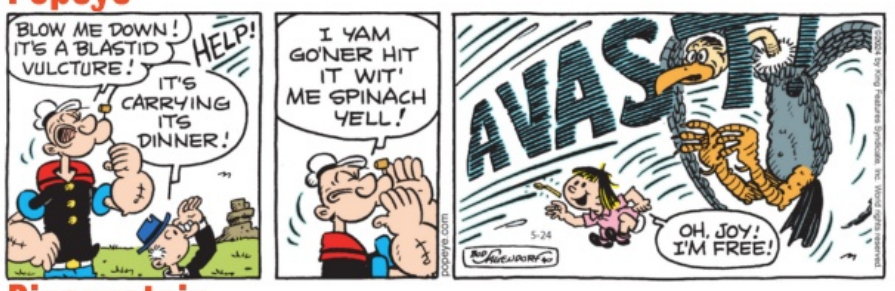


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

And now, a word from the National Council on Chairs:
SIT!
This has been a word from the National Council on Chairs.
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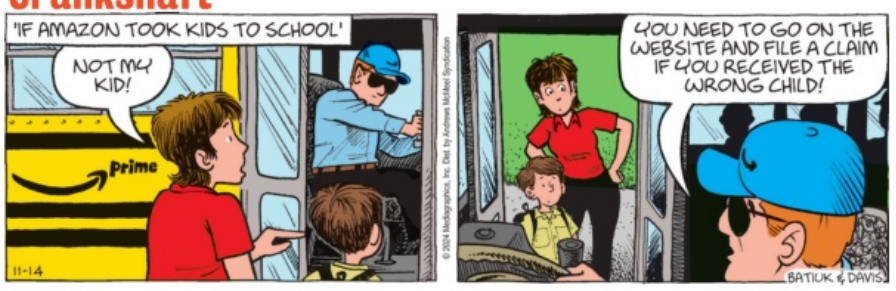
Hart of the city

Crankshaft


'IF AMAZON TOOK KIDS TO SCHOOL'
NOT MY KID!
Prime
YOU NEED TO GO ON THE WEBSITE AND FILE A CLAIM IF YOU RECEIVED THE WRONG CHILD!
11-14
BATIUK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may gain control over your inner struggles after self-reflection, boosting your confidence. You might successfully overcome bad habits or addictions. Singles are likely to find a suitable match, and couples may gain clarity in their relationship. Opportunities for overseas travel could arise. Students can expect good news regarding their academics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Disputes with siblings may finally be resolved, strengthening your bond. Your energy levels will be high, allowing you to complete challenging tasks with ease. A short work-related trip may expand your professional network. Helping a needy person may also enhance your social status.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You'll be occupied with social and family gatherings today. Your polite demeanour will improve your image among relatives and friends. You may spend money on artefacts or other valuable items to elevate your social standing. Additionally, you might receive good news from a close relative.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Feelings of dissatisfaction may trouble you today, leading to self-reflection. However, this may slow down your work and cause delays. You might waste valuable time on unproductive activities. Fortunately, by late evening, things are likely to improve.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel disconnected from reality today and struggle with responsibilities. Investments could result in losses, so proceed with caution. Carefully review documents before signing anything. The health of an elderly family member may be a concern. If you're planning home renovations, consider postponing them for now.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Helping those in need will boost your social respect. You'll give your best effort at work, leading to early completion of tasks. Good news from a sibling is possible. However, excessive workload may leave you exhausted, so avoid stress. Meditation and fasting are recommended for maintaining balance.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Overwork at home may leave you feeling tired and careless. Patience is key. If you're planning an adventurous trip, it's best to postpone it. Past investments may become unprofitable. Students should focus on working harder. Health issues related to the back, nervous system, liver, or skin may arise.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You'll feel much better today, as situations come under control. Your professional network may provide assistance at work. Travel opportunities, especially overseas, may present themselves. Domestic harmony and love life will improve. Creativity will flourish, leading you to bring home artistic items or plan outings with family and friends.

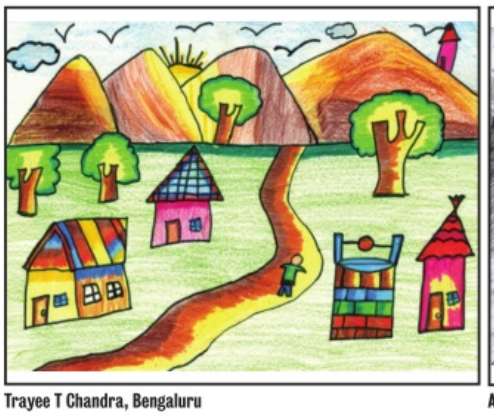
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
A lack of focus may make you feel dull, and impulsive decisions could lead to unrealistic expectations. Your impatience might result in disappointment. Be cautious during adventurous activities and avoid reckless driving. However, by the afternoon, financial gains are likely, and new clients may bring growth opportunities for your business.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Creativity is at its peak today. You may plan to renovate your home or office, investing in decorative items to enhance social status. Domestic harmony will improve, and relationships with friends, colleagues, and business partners will stabilise. Legal matters may also bring favourable news.

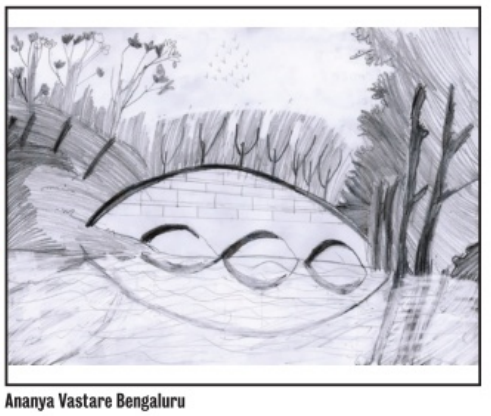
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Your creative energy will be high today, and you may attend an artistic or cultural event. Stuck finances might be recovered. Job seekers should update their skills to stay competitive. Students must put in extra effort to succeed in their academics.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You'll be actively involved in your children's education and may plan for their higher studies. Couples may receive positive news related to children. You might also consider further studies yourself to improve your career prospects. Singles have a good chance of finding a romantic partner.

KIDZONE



Trayee T Chandra, Bengaluru



Ananya Vastare Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$(\sqrt{(5/20)})^{-1} + (\sqrt{(3/12)})^{-1} =$
$(\sqrt{1/4})^{-1} + (\sqrt{1/4})^{-1} =$
$(1/2)^{-1} + (1/2)^{-1} =$
$1/(1/2) + 1/(1/2) =$
$2/1 + 2/1 =$
$4 / 1 = 4$

RIDDLER A spoon

BULL'S EYE
coal, colon, cool, coon, loan, loco, loon, nova, oval, vocal, VOLCANO

FAST FIVE

R	A	D	A	R
U	M	A	M	I
N	I	T	I	D
I	N	A	N	E
C	O	S	E	S

STRIKE OUT

L	A	P	D	O	G	S	T	R	E	W	N			
E	A		D	R	A	C	O		R	I				
A	C	C	E	D	E		U	M	B	R	A	S		
G	K		S	A	B	L	E		A		S			
U	V	E	A		T	E	L		O	N	C	E		
E	A	R	E	D		A	S		S	U	D	A	N	
L		G	A	U	C	H	O	S		B				
L	I	V	I	D		H		B	E	D	E	W		
O	D	A	S		T	E	G		L	I	R	A		
A		C		M	E	D	A	L		A		G		
D	E	A	C	O	N		M	E	D	D	L	E		
E	N		D	O	G	M	A		E		R			
D	E	T	A	I	N		A	N	I	M	U	S		

QUICK

H	U	B	S		C	O	N	T	E	S	T	S		
I	R		A	N		W		H		E				
G	R	I	D		L	E		A	L	I	E	N		
H	A	J		M		N	K		T					
B	A	N	J	O		A	F	G	H	A	N			
R		I		N		R		P						
O	F	F	I	N	G		S	H	R	I	L	L		
W		A		B		E								
S	C	Y	T	H	E		D	E	P	O	T			
	T		A		G		O		I					
E		G	R	O	O	M		E	M	E	R	S	O	N
G	R		I		M		S		E		U			
S	P	Y	G	L	A	S	S		E	D	A	M		

MENSA PUZZLE
13. Starting with the top circles, multiply each value by 2 and subtract 3, writing the result in the corresponding segment of the lower circle.

QUOTE UNCODE
Nothing so much enhances a good as to make sacrifices for it.

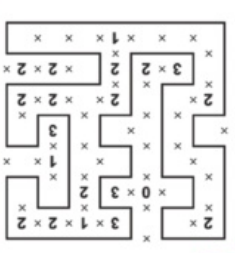
SUDOKU

3	9	1	7	2	4	8	6	5
8	6	7	5	3	9	1	2	4
4	5	2	6	1	8	3	7	9
1	3	8	9	6	5	7	4	2
6	4	9	3	7	2	5	1	8
2	7	5	8	4	1	9	3	6
9	1	3	2	5	6	4	8	7
5	2	4	1	8	7	6	9	3
7	8	6	4	9	3	2	5	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
H, Ah, Ash, Haul, Lash, Laughs, Goulash.

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 + 9 + 5 + 5 = 26
Medium
4 x 2 – 8 + 8 = 8
Hard
2 + 6 – 3 x 9 = 45

LOOP



KAKURO

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